Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 06336 131440Z ACTION OES-09

P 131432Z JUL 78 FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7157 INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV USDOEHQ WASHDC PRIORITY USDOEHQ GERMANTOWN PRIORITY

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USIAEA

DEPT PASS IO/SCT AND OES/NET DOE PASS AMMONS AND MCFADDEN, IA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IAEA, PARM, MNUC

SUBJECT: SUPPLY OF TRITIUM GAS TO ISRAEL

1. MISSION HAS RECEIVED COPY OF AGENCY LETTER TO MR. A. FRIEDLANDER, MANAGER, PACKARD INSTRUMENT (ISRAEL) LTD., P.O. BOX 1270, JERUSALEM 91000, ISRAEL, ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF LETTER FROM FRIEDLANDER DATED JUNE 12, 1978 CONCERNING SUPPLY OF TRITIUM GAS TO TWO INDUSTRIAL CORPORATIONS IN ISRAEL FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF LIGHT-EMITTING ELEMENTS. FRIEDLANDER APPARENTLY WAS ADVISED BY RATLEDGE, OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY, TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING THIS MATERIAL THROUGH IAEA, UNDER THE U.S./ IAEA AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION. AGENCY LETTER PROVIDES DETAILS RE PROCEDURES REQUIRED FOR SUPPLY OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 VIENNA 06336 131440Z

SUCH MATERIAL THROUGH IAEA, INCLUDING REQUIREMENT FOR MASTER AGREEMENT FOR SUPPLY OF MATERIALS THROUGH AGENCY, AND SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENT THERETO, TO PROVIDE FOR EACH TRANSFER OF MATERIAL AS MAY BE AGREED BY U.S. AUTHORITIES.

2. AGENCY LETTER INCLUDES ATTACHMENTS PROVIDED BY

FRIEDLANDER DESCRIBING QUANTITIES OF TRITIUM GAS REQUIRED, AND IN ONE CASE INCLUDES LONG LIST OF SPECIFIC END-USES FOR SUCH MATERIAL. ONE ORDER IS FROM ISOTOPES AND RADIATION ENTERPRISES LTD. (ISORAD) AND IS FOR 11 SHIPMENTS OF TRITIUM GAS, EACH SHIPMENT

WITH AN ACTIVITY OF 10,000 CURIES. (FIRST SHIPMENT APPARENTLY HAS ALREADY BEEN RECEIVED BY THIS FIRM.) SECOND ORDER IS FROM INDUSTRIAL AND ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS DIVISION OF TADIRAN, ISRAEL ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES LTD., AND INVOLVES TOTAL OF 1,300,000 CURIES TO BE SUPPLIED OVER A 5 YEAR PERIOD.

3. ISORAD ORDER INCLUDES LONG LIST OF SPECIFIED END-USES, INCLUDING SEVERAL USES WHICH ARE CLEARLY OR MOST LIKELY MILITARY IN NATURE, E.G., LIGHTING FOR ARTILLERY SIGHTS, MORTAR SIGHTING LIGHTS, RIFLE SIGHTS, PERSONAL SIGNS FOR INFANTRY SOLDIERS, EMERGENCY INDICATORS FOR ARMY POSTS, AND HELICOPTER ROTORS. MISSION BELIEVES IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR STATUTORY REASONS FOR AGENCY TO BECOME INVOLVED IN SUPPLY OF ANY MATERIALS WHICH COULD KNOWINGLY "FURTHER ANY MILITARY PURPOSE." THE SECOND ORDER MENTIONS ONLY THAT THE MATERIAL IS REQUIRED "TO START PRODUCTION OF SELF-LUMINESCENT, TRITIUM BASED LIGHT SOURCES."

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PAGE 03 VIENNA 06336 131440Z

- 4. IT IS NOT RPT NOT CLEAR TO MISSION WHY RATLEDGE REFERRED ISRAELI'S TO IAEA. WE WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION SOONEST ON THIS POINT.
- 5. COPY OF AGENCY LETTER AND ATTACHMENTS POUCHED FOR INFO TO MCFADDEN/DOE AND HOYLE, OES/NET. PLEASE ADVISE. KIRK

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